REMARKS

The specification has been amended to correct a typographical error.

The specification has been further amended to claim priority to related applications Serial No. 09/462,656 (the '656 Application) and Serial No. 08/933,566 ('566 Application). Walid Aboul-Hosn is an inventor common to the instant application, the '656 Application, and the '566 Application. A Petition for an Unintentionally Delayed Benefit Claim pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.78 has been filed, a copy of which is submitted herewith (Attachment A).

The drawings have been amended to provide consistent reference numbers when directing to the same part. Replacement drawing sheets are submitted herewith.

Claim 10 has been canceled.

Claims 1-9 remain pending in the application. Of these, claims 1-9 are currently amended.

Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Jarvik 5,376,114. Independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 10 to overcome this rejection. Dependent claims 2-9 further define the features of independent claim 1 and therefore are also believed to be allowable over the cited reference. Claims 1-9 have additionally been amended to more particularly state the subject matter being claimed.

Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over Aboul-Hosn U.S. 6,083,260 (the '260 Patent). Applicant's claim of priority to the '260 Patent removes the '260 Patent as prior art as to the instant application. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

Reconsideration in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks and allowance of claims 1-9 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

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A-Med/16828/040805 AMENDMENT A

Enclosures: Amendment Transmittal Letter
                Replacement Drawing Sheets 14/18 and 15/18
                Attachment A
                Return Postcard